

Samangan Farmers Happy as Pistachio Yield, Price Jump

AIBAK - Pistachio yield increased by 10 percent and its price by 33 percent in northern Samangan this year, an official said on Wednesday.

Humayon Habibi, provincial agriculture and livestock director, told Pajhwok Afghan News farmers collected 187 tons of pistachio this year in Samangan compared to last year's 170 tons.

He said the pistachio was collected from forests on 42,000 hectares of land in different areas of the province including the provincial capital, Aibak, and districts.

Seven kilograms of the unshelled fruit was sold for around 6,000 afghanis last year but its price increased to 8,000 afghanis this year for being fully ripped, Habibi added.

Residents said they were happy with the increased income from pistachio this year. ...*(More on P4)...*(16)



Bagram Airbase Targeted in Suicide Bombing

KABUL - A suicide bomber detonated his explosives at one of the entrances to the airbase in Parwan, which is just north of Kabul.

A suicide bomber reportedly detonated his explosives at the southern gate of Bagram Airbase in Parwan province on Wednesday evening.

No details on casualties have been released but eyewitnesses report a number of people were wounded.

This comes just hours after a senior US commander in Afghanistan apologized on Wednesday for a "highly offensive" propaganda leaflet that had been distributed by US forces in Parwan, just north of Kabul, on Tuesday.

The offensive leaflet contained a passage from the Quran used in the Taliban militants' banner superimposed on to the image of a dog.

The dog is considered unclean in Islam and associating an image of the animal with one of the religion's most sacred texts prompted indignation.

The image showed a white dog with a section of the Taliban's banner superimposed on its side fleeing from the lion. The banner contains a passage from the Quran in Arabic. "The design of the leaflets mistakenly ...*(More on P4)...*(19)

6 People Injured as Police Opens Fire on Passenger Bus



FARAH CITY - At least six people were injured when police opened fire on a passenger bus in Bala Bolok district of western Farah province on Wednesday, eyewitnesses said.

The incident took place on Farah-Herat highway in Farah Rood Bazaar this morning.

A resident of Farah Rood Bazaar and

eyewitness of the incident, Sayed Ahmad, told Pajhwok Afghan News a policeman opened fire on a 404 model passenger bus after it did not stop to the police checkpoint. Six of the bus passengers traveling from Herat province to Farah wounded in the incident, he said. The injured were shifted to Farah Rood Hospital. ...*(More on P4)...*(18)

Camels Laden with 1260 Kgs of Hashish Seized in Logar

KABUL - The Afghan security forces have seized around 1,260 kilograms of Hashish in central Logar province of Afghanistan.

According to the local security officials, the Hashish were placed inside the bags and were loaded on five camels as the smugglers were looking to smuggle them to unknown location.

The officials further added that the camels were spotted in Aab Chakan area located in the vicinity of the provincial capital. The commander of the 4th Brigade of the armed forces in Logar General Abdul Raziq told reporters that camels carrying the narcotics were spotted by the foreign forces as they were conducting a surveillance of the area from the security balloons.

He said the narcotics were professionally placed inside the bags so that they can not be recognized and be swiftly smuggled.

According to Gen. Raziq, the narcotics were loaded in Nangarhar ...*(More on P4)...*(21)

'Ghor NDS Chief Conspiring to Disunite People'

FEROZKOH - Dozens of people, including provincial council members, on Wednesday held a protest gathering in western Ghor province, calling for the provincial spymaster to be removed.

The gathering in Ferozkoh, the provincial capital, accused the provincial National Directorate of Security

(NDS) chief, of 'conspiring' to disunite the people of Ghor and asked for his dismissal.

The protesters charged the NDS chief, Noor Mohammad Kohnaward, had detained the acting education director on corruption charges "without any evidence." Abdul Basei Qaderi, deputy head of the ...*(More on P4)...*(20)

Commander Among 6 Rebels Killed in Khost Strike

KHOST CITY - At least six militants, including a notorious commander, have been killed during a US drone strike in southeastern Khost province, an official said on Wednesday.

Mobarez Mohammad Zadrán, the governor's spokesman told Pajhwok Afghan News the US forces carried out the air raid in Zenikhel area of Nadir Shahwali Kot district of on Tuesday evening. He did not give details, but a reliable government source, who did not want to be named, said the drone strike hit a vehicle carrying Jihadshah, a regional Taliban commander.

He said Jihadshah and five of his associates were killed in the attack. Jihadshah fought against the government besides ...*(More on P4)...*(17)

Highway Police Chief Killed in Nimroz Blast



ZARANJ - A highway police commander was killed in a landmine blast in Khashrod district of southwestern Nimroz province on Wednesday morning, officials said. A local official, who did not want to be named, said the explosion killed the Zaranj-Delaram highway commander Lt Ghulam Sakhi Alizada in Shash Abah area and wounded a sergeant. He accused the Taliban of planting the explosive on the highway. Police were investigating the blast, but had arrested no one so far.

Provincial police chief Brig. Gen. Ghulam Jilani Abubakkar confirmed the incident and said the highway police came under attack when they were patrolling security check-posts.

Lt Ghulam Sakhi Alizada becomes the second commander of the highway to be killed in the same area in about two months. (Pajhwok)

Ghazni: ANA Copter Crashes after Hitting Tree



GHAZNI CITY - An Afghan National Army helicopter crash-landed after hitting a tree in Ajristan district of southern Ghazni province on Wednesday, injuring two personnel onboard, police said.

The helicopter crashed into a tree soon as it took off after delivering logistics to the district centre, said Ghazni police chief Gen Mohammad Zaman.

He told Pajhwok Afghan ...*(More on P4)...*(22)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)



Aries You welcome this day of renewal because you believe the past has been a good teacher and now it's time to move on. You're so certain about the current forward thrust that you're ready to remove your rearview mirror if you feel too tempted to look back.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)



Taurus Regardless of the demands that others put on your time now, your first inclination is to retreat and turn your thoughts inward. You can see the potential for inadvertently opening an old emotional wound, prompting you to do everything you can to avoid such an outcome.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)



Gemini Your get-up-and-go is unreliable today. You may possess an overabundance of physical energy one minute, only to feel depleted the next. Luckily, your internal batteries are recharged by your friends and coworkers once the receptive Moon shifts into your 11th House of Social Networking. You are reassured by the connections you make with like-minded members of your community.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)



Cancer You understand the importance of initiating action, yet you may be concerned that you're reacting too quickly. The truth is you might not get as much finished in the long run if you throw caution to the wind today. Nevertheless, you could err on the other side of the equation and let a wonderful opportunity pass without seizing it.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)



Leo You are proud of your big plans today, and you might even think you're invincible. The impetuous Aries Moon's presence in your 9th House of Adventure is enough to get you all fired up as you look to your future. Nevertheless, unseen complications slow you down sufficiently to prevent you from reaching your goals now.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)



Virgo You often prefer to remain on the straight and narrow path, avoiding circuitous routes that take you through shady territory. However, you might believe you have a rare opportunity to glimpse the truth today, even if you must do it in complete darkness. You are frightened by the prospects, yet you are simultaneously pulled toward the unknowable mysteries.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)



Libra Your friends are encouraging you to gamble with your feelings today, but you're not buying their advice. Although you're still able to enjoy a social event, you're hesitant to rush into anything that requires you to reveal your emotions. In fact, you prefer to process your unexpressed desires in the privacy of your own mind now.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)



Scorpio You're not going to do anything halfway today; you're either all the way in or you're out. The assertive Aries Moon rattles its saber in your 6th House of Self-Improvement. Your confidence is growing now, leading you to believe that you can do whatever it takes in order to survive and thrive. Nevertheless, you are concerned about overstepping your bounds, so you might err on the side of caution.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)



Sagittarius You can feel the thrill of the chase flowing through your veins. In fact, it's a real challenge to stay focused on your responsibilities once the impulsive Aries Moon marches into your 5th House of Fun and Games. Unfortunately, your playful attitude can convey the wrong message to your coworkers and your friends. They might think you're oblivious to your previous obligations, but you want to do it all.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)



Capricorn You're stepping into new territory; you still want to pursue your career objectives but you're eager to shift some of your attention back to your personal affairs. You have a renewed interest in spending time with family and friends. In fact, you might even be willing to temporarily set your professional ambitions aside while you put your life in order.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

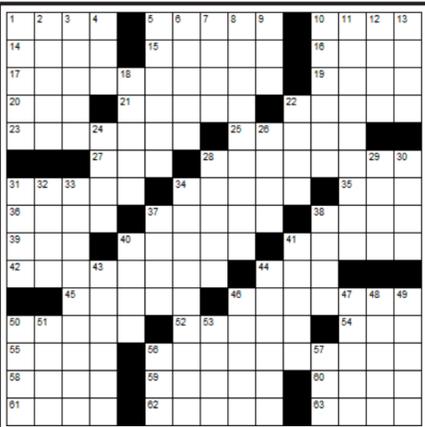


Aquarius You might think you know how the day will unfold, but your schedule appears to have a mind of its own. Events occur that force you to alter your commitments today, or your priorities change dramatically enough that you cancel previous appointments. In either case, the result is the same now, requiring you to demonstrate maturity as you adapt to the new lay of the land.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)



Pisces Your friends and associates seem so cautious now that you're afraid to take a chance on your own, even if your ideas are amazing. However, justifying your intentions is a waste of precious resources today. The time you spend in bringing others up to speed is better applied directly to your new venture. Strike while the iron is hot. Activist Cesar Chavez said, "Talk is cheap; it is the way we organize and use our lives every day."



Across

1. Unusual, 5. Italian for "Mouth", 10. Wimp, 14. District, 15. European currency, 16. Dwarf buffalo, 17. Resentment, 19. A field of grass, 20. Tavern, 21. Contests of speed, 22. Walked stealthily, 23. Set apart, 25. Ancient Hebrew vestment, 27. Consumed food, 28. Round-shouldered, 31. Lariat, 34. Scrimp, 35. Foot digit 36. Goddess of discord, 37. Moved in a curve, 38. A musical pause, 39. A tree fruit, 40. Cake frosting, 41. Loads, 42. Conceptions, 44. Downturn, 45. High school dances, 46. Scatter, 50. Faint, 52. Normal, 54. Since, 55. Speech disorder, 56. Instigator, 58. Against, 59. Practical, 60. Sleep in a convenient place, 61. Pear variety, 62. A chemical compound 63. Initial wager,

Down

1. Jewish scholar, 2. Operatic solos, 3. Backward-looking, 4. Consume, 5. Harangue, 6. 1/16th of a pound, 7. Algonquian Indian, 8. Mollycoddling, 9. Donkey, 10. Defeat soundly, 11. Not financially examined, 12. Scattered, 13. Went under, 18. Muse of love poetry, 22. Fired a weapon, 24. Young girl, 26. Ping-pong, 28. Renders senseless, 29. Schnozzola, 30. Obtains, 31. Not right, 32. Diva's solo, 33. Guideposts, 34. Bathing suits, 37. Pond gunk, 38. Awestruck, 40. Press, 41. Fine thread, 43. Equatorial, 44. Trader, 46. Military brass instrument, 47. A radioactive gaseous element, 48. Excrete, 49. More awful, 50. Generous slice of the pie, 51. Drunkard, 53. Hissy fit, 56. Regret, 57. American Dental, association

Yesterday's Solution

S	T	A	T	E	O	A	T	S	I	D	E	S
O	R	I	G	I	N	O	R	I	C	I	E	A
B	O	U	R	G	T	I	R	O	E	A	P	
S	T	E	P	L	A	D	D	E	R	A	C	E
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S	C	I	E	R	O	S	I	T	S		E	L
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S	T	A	P	E	S		C	O	U	R		
S	O	U	R		T	R	O	U	B	A	D	O
M	A	G	I		I	A	M	B		T	A	B
O	D	E	S		E	P	E		U	R	T	I
G	Y	R	E			R	E	N	D		M	E

barren, baste, bounce, chestnut, cited, cope, create, eject, elegant, embellish, fresh, garnish, gauze, guise, holiday intent, intoxicated, layer, livery, marsh, masterpiece, pique, plant, puddle

B O U N C E T P U D D L E
 E L E G A N T C R E A T E
 C I S A E R E L T T E S E
 E N Y C H O L I D A Y U M
 I T S S A W C V S C Q H B
 P E N Y L L H E W I E S E
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